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HEADLINE PERSONALITY

Powers Unimpressive Before U-2 Incident

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NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (AP).
— Polite and pleasant — but quiet.

Those are the words most often used by friends to sum up Francis Gary Powers.

In fact, they are hard put to find anything else to say about the U-2 pilot released by the Russians today. They recall no anecdotes about his life before he became the center of an international furor. No one ever gave him a nickname. He was always called Francis.

"Francis was a quiet sort of boy, the kind you enjoyed talking to, never any trouble," is the description given by John C. Mead, his high school principal in Grundy, Va.

"He just wasn't particularly outstanding:

Scholastically, Capt. Powers ranked 22d in his high school senior class of 69. Later in Milligan College, Johnson City, Tenn., where he took a four-year pre-medical course, he again emerged 22d in a class of 59.

The only way Capt. Powers received any notability in his younger years was in athletics. He was a lineman on his high school football team. He also liked to ride horseback on his father's farm, once worked as a lifeguard and was a member of a fire-fighting patrol.

At Milligan College, Capt. Powers was a track star in the 220, 440 and 880-yard events. He won medals in those divisions at the 1950 Penn Relays.

His love of the outdoors carried over into his adult life. He enjoyed fishing, and eventually took up skiing.

It was a \$2.50 plane ride at

FULL NAME—Francis Gary Powers.

CLAIM TO FAME—Shot down on spy mission over Russia.

HOME—Milledgeville, Ga.

DATE OF BIRTH—August 17, 1929.

EDUCATION—Pre-med graduate of Milligan College, Johnson City, Tenn.

JOBS—Jet pilot in Air Force, test pilot for Lockheed Aircraft.

FAMILY—Wife, former Barbara Moore.

HOBBIES—Fishing, skiing.

the age of 14 which determined his eventual career as a flyer. This flight was made with a woman pilot who was taking passengers on rides from the airport at Princeton, W. Va.

The brown-eyed, dark-haired boy proved so enthusiastic over the flight that the pilot gave him double time in the air for his money. When Capt. Powers reached home, he was reported to have said:

"Daddy, I like it up there. It does something to you. It gives you something. Someday I'll have to go back up there and find out what it is."

His father, Oliver W. Powers, a shoe repair shop operator and former coal miner, never sought to discourage him.

After graduating from Milligan College in 1950, the year the Korean War broke out, young Powers enlisted in the Air Force as a private. Later he became a second lieutenant and a jet fighter pilot, but he never saw action in Korea.

In 1954 he was married to the former Barbara Moore of Albany, Ga. They have no children.

Capt. Powers resigned from the Air Force in 1956 and became a test pilot for the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. In August of that year he was assigned to a group supposedly flying weather research planes from Adana, Turkey. His wife went with him.

For four years his life was one of obscurity. Then he was downed in a U-2 reconnaissance plane in Russia.

His life was one of obscurity no longer.